## New Blouses Herald Unusual Move in Style

tounding fact that the trade considers Christmas week as the time to end winter and the New Year as the time to begin a new type of apparel.

This is very well for commerce. but it is perplexing for the woman. She realizes that winter has just begun, not only on the calendar, but in fact. Furs are needed every day. instead of occasionally. clothes are essential. Hats that resist the wind are the only comfortable ones, Heavy shoes must replace paper soles and con steel buckles. To the mind of woman. winter has arrived; to the mind of apparel workers, spring appears over the horizon.

The situation really sounds more perplexing than it is. The fact is that the trade must be ready for seasonal clothes three months before the season begins. It cannot wait until the last hour. The great machinery which belongs to the industry of preparing apparel for women must be set in motion the moment the New Year breaks against the time when the frost will melt.

It takes months to prepare to fight a battle in clothes. The extremists go, to Paris in November, come back in December, and launch spring and summer clothes in January. These are the manufacturers. They work close to the French houses. They use models in mass. They obtain a collar from one, a belt from another, an advance silhouette. Then they are ready for the American trade.

As a rule, the houses in France do more business with the manufacturers than with private dressmakers. and here is where the smile is justified on the face of the American. The French designers, you know. raise a hullaballoo about cards of admission to their salons, about the necessity for royalties on creations, the barring out of journalists and those who do not buy; in short, they make it as difficult as possible to enter any one of their houses. The peace conference was easier of admission than the August French exhibitions of clothes. Yet any manufacturer who wishes to sell a hun- October and fretfully endured some dred or more gowns at small cost to the American public, flooding the continent with them at one-fifth the price asked in Paris, can go into any one of these French dressmaking houses and buy what he will. Why then, the exclusiveness?

And another strange part of thegame is that a large number of these except in bitter climates. Days manufacturers claim to put out purely American clothes, whereas they are frequently in Paris or in touch with their commissioners there.

What is true is this: The ideas obtained abroad are used separately or blended by the manufacturers to bring about an American product suitable for the American woman; not only her face and figure, but her acpoint of view and her social opport of wearing clothes to suit the day,

So it is this part of the trade that produces its spring clothes after the produces its spring clothes after the Gadually, without startling revo-first of the year and starts the world lution, this whole routine of dressing. their first innings.

It is not only that entirely new evening clothes are produced, but dren who have been dressed otherthere seems to be a shift in the way wise. Few of us seem to realize that of dressing. Furs are withdrawn, except at sales, and blouses are offered. Thin coat suits take the place the year, that silk steckings cover of heavy one-piece frocks. Even those women who are busy trying to get service out of their warm clothes catch the inspiration of the hour and think about dress in different terms. They wonder if it ian't possible to turn their wardrobe into new lines; if it isn't probable that a few old things will serve with the addition of new ones.

There is a large class of women in America who wear out their old clothes in the autumn and buy their spring apparel in January, thereby avoiding an actual winter outfit, wrapping up the hody during several merely adding a top coat and furs. These are the women who are economical of time as well as money and who insist that their plan is the best. It sounds good, has reason behind it, and should appeal to a larger majerity of women than it does.

It may be that in the future the American creed of dressing will be based on this suggestion. It is no more of a revolution than was the general adoption of out type of un-derwear for twelve months of the year. If your memory does not go back very far, it may be aided by your living ancesters, who will tell you that in their day all women con-

THERE is a turn in the tide of They Point the Way to the Revival of a Fashion of 1895, Which Was are entitled, through their original-Invented to Shelve the One-Piece Frock-Fine Workmanship and Gorgeous Colors-Short Sleeves and High Collars.



the trunks next to mothballs, to be revived in October. \* \* \* \* This is the schedule on which generations of Americans were brought up. It was only in recent years that tivities, her method of living, her any doctor who preached the erced

> fanatie, a dangerous experimenter.

of apparel moving toward new con- was wiped out from our system of tours, hats, wraps and sport clothes life. There are few of us today who at the moment when the clothes pur- remember it with vividness. We look chased in the autumn are getting upon it as something archaic, and wonder if we were ever submitted to such tyranny by our mothers. Yet flannels have disappeared, that thin underwear is wern twelve menths of the legs in all kinds of weather, that no one pretends to cover the cheat by a shirt or a vest beneath the frock, that muslin, chiffen and georgette blouses are worn when the thermometer is at zero.

Have you ever stopped to consider this drastic change in America? It is not prevalent in other countries, except among the ultra-civilized, moneyed sets. Over here it is general. It was really an immense revelution that came so gradually no

one quite took in its importance. We are now quite aware that months of the year, regardless of the thermometer, is far more dangerous to health than our present method of never everheating the body and meeting the cold with protective outer clothes. And even these are getting less and less. They are beginning to be a matter of fashion. not health.

Dr. Copeland, the director of health in New York, recently stated, in a significant interview, that all the dire things prophesied for women who wear high-heeled shoes, little underclothing, silk stockings and low shees in winter have not matevialized; that the death rate, in fact, has decreased; that statistics show tlatics; it is not a mere theory. The

THE BLOUSE ON THE LEFT IS SOMEWHAT ON THE ORDER OF gowns and new ideas for street and it is only the new generation of chil- SACQUE WITH SHORT SLEEVES AND HIGH TURN-OVER COLLAR. THE EDGES ARE FINISHED WITH NARROW RUFFLES, THERE IS A BLACK LEATHER DELT AND SMALL GOLD BUTTONS. THE COLOR IS GRANGE! THE PARKS, PAPPETA. AT RIGHT: BLOUSE OF BRONZE SILK NET WORN OVER A BROWN SIME SKIRT. IT IS TRIMBED WITH PLOUNCES OF FINE CREAM LACE AND TIED ABOUT THE WAIST WITH A NARROW BELT-OF BRONZE VELVET RIBBON. THE DEEP PLEATED COLLAR IS A SLIGHT EVIDENCE OF THE REPURN OF THE BEATHA WHICH IS

threat and nose operations.

and approval in regard to thin sought after as high ones, especially more than ever.

\* \* \* \* Wemen will always purchase raiment as long as they have the money it is thick or thin is of no importance. Although women are beginning to dress in much the same manner all the year around, except in the very hot months, they do not rethe asylunt. That is proved by sta- land.

plague better than men, and that, may women. If they belong to that class to class, those who wear few class that wear out most of their elothes suffer less from colds, are clothes in the autumn and get new not tubercular and are not among ones in January to last through the those who fill the hospitals for spring they have the world of apparel at their doors.

All of this is important and signifi- In January this tailored suits are cant, this business of health and offered, straw hats are here to go its influence over fashions, and if with them, soft, transparent blouses women have the doctor's permission are plentiful, low shoes are as much clothes, they will indulge in them as the revived round shape is gaining headway every month.

Let us hope that soon the medieval The dressmakers need not fear, vamp with its long, extended point will have disappeared from the face of the earth. It was the ugliest for it. The question as to whether shoe that America has ever spensored. It was all very well to take up the ancient tunies, but why any one should copy the footwear of Richard the Second is beyond explanation. It is a wonder that extreme women duce their purchases. The reason for did not turn up the points of their women buying ciothes is not seces- vamps and catch them back to the sity; it is the demand for change, knees in the regulation manuer of Monotony has sent many people to saliants of the middle ages in Eng-

Whenever the season breaks, whensidered it necessary to change the that thinly dressed women, criticised women who have the least monotony ever there is a suggestion of spring Bati-weight of their underclothes, also the as they were, withstood the influenza in their lives are upt to be the least clothes ever the harizon there comes favor.

ity, to persuade the public into buy-

Such blouses have appeared this month. They are intended for separate skirts as well as coat suits. for the economical idea of using a separate skirt is abroad in the land; in truth, it is strongly entrenched,

Far back in 1895 there was a widespread fashion to wear separate skirts with ornamental blouses and the costume was considered sufficiently formal , or the gayest of afternoon affairs and even for small dinners and the theater. Yet so subtly does each generation change its creed of clothes that the costume of today which is made up of the separate skirt and the blouse has not the remotest kinship to the costume

A description of one seems to fit the other, but it is misleading. The costume of '95 was made up from a long skirt with a train effect at the back, the material crepe dechine, satin or figured crepon; the blouse was of taffeta, of embroidered tulle or spangled net. This was the generation that sponsored the small waist and the curved hips, so the ornamental bodice was boned to a deep point front and back.

Today this costume consists of a short skirt, cut from six to twelve inches from the floor, made of tweed, serge, satin or homespun, and a blouse that is dropped over a soft china silk lining that does not touch the figure after it leaves the shoulders and is tied around the hips, usually with a sash.

The comtour of '95 was stiff and formal. 'yet, according to natural laws, as far as the curves of the figure were concerned, the contour of today is as supple as that of a young Indian, all the curves smoothed out, the straight lines deprived

Get it well fixed in your minds that the new blouse which is offered to build up the wardrobe between now and spring is not a simple garment, not one that can go to the tub or be worn with any kind of coat or skirt. On the contrary, it is a garment de luxe. It is intended to be the most ornamental part of the costume. It is so expensive that no woman would spend so much money on a garment that was neg-

The bulk of the money for the costume is put in the blouse, and the skirt becomes the insignificant choice. You must admit that this is a reversal of our point of view toward dress. It is really medieval to think of the tunic as the foundation for glory and the lower garment as something to keep the legs warm. The men of several centuries before the directoire period who brought in the incroyables, the unbelievables, with their long trousers caught under the instep, thought more of the tunic, the blouse, the jerkin than any other part of the costume, so the great embroiderers of France, England and Italy exhausted their skill on the handiwork that went to make this top garment a thing of beauty.

No such handiwork exists today. although we have reached a degree of skill that, the people of ten years. age thought impossible. It is marvelous how well we do it when it is done so quickly, for speed is the keynote of modern labor.

It is a temptation to depart from the subject of blouses and tell something of this rejuvenation of exquisite handwork, for it is a remarkable development in American artistry; but the blouses that we may choose this month are a bit more serviceable than the gorgeous affairs that the handworkers are trying to develop. Therefore, they are worthy of a detailed description. Their glorious sisters can go for another day.

One of these new blouses, for instance, is of pink duvetyn, ornamented with gray angers. must give you an instant impression of the novelty of this new upper garment. There is nothing commonplace about such a color or material, and if it is taken as a straw that shows the wind we are in for a gale of novelties that will upset all tradition about blouses. It is a sport bleuse, this garment.

One especially charming evening wrap is made of ruby velvet and trimmed with priceless sable.

A black velvet opera gown is draped with beautiful black lace and has a train edged with monkey fur.

Blouse sleeves are generally of elbow length, but they vary from extreme shortness to great length.

One of the latest models of the sunon sweater clings to the figure at the top and flares at the bottom.

Parrot green is the color of the me-

Batiste designing seems to be fixed in